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Jeffries held without bond on charges of giving Soviets battle plans

By Bill Gertz
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Accused Soviet agent Randy Miles Jeffries passed portions of top-secret details on the methods used by U.S. forces to conduct nuclear war, an FBI agent testified yesterday.

Mr. Jeffries, 26, was ordered held without bail yesterday by a federal magistrate who said government prosecutors had shown probable cause for an espionage trial, although "just barely."

"The case has not gained weight overnight," U.S. Magistrate Jean F. Dwyer said during the second hearing in two days, but she ordered the case put before a federal grand jury for possible indictment.

Later yesterday, the decision was upheld by U.S. District Judge Joyce Green.

FBI Special Agent Michael Giglia told the magistrate during a pre-trial hearing that Mr. Jeffries had offered to sell a top-secret document — obtained from a closed hearing of the House Armed Services subcommittee on procurement and military nuclear systems — to Soviet military officials.

The document, titled "Department of Defense Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence Programs," was a transcription of the closed hearing by the Acme Reporting Co., for which Mr. Jeffries worked until last Monday.

It was one of three documents, including two classified "secret," that Mr. Jeffries offered to the Soviets in exchange for \$5,000, Mr. Giglia said.

Details of the FBI investigation of Mr. Jeffries, who was arrested at a downtown hotel last Friday, were presented in court papers and testimony at a preliminary hearing and at yesterday's pre-trial detention hearing.

Defense attorney G. Allen Dale argued that the case lacked evidence. He said that a friend of Mr. Jeffries told him Monday night that a locked briefcase full of stolen secret documents had been destroyed after the friend had been notified by "someone on the phone."

"The documents have been burned," Mr. Dale said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Rhonda C. Fields requested that Mr. Jeffries be held without bail since federal authorities had no way of knowing if the secret documents had been destroyed. Mr. Jeffries, if released, could retrieve the documents, sell them to the Soviets and use the money to flee, she said.

In explaining her decision to hold Mr. Jeffries, the magistrate told Mr. Dale that there were "unanswered questions" about the case and that the court had "no way of gauging the reliability of the person you met with."

"If he really wanted to help Mr. Jeffries, he would have turned over the briefcase intact," Mrs. Dwyer said.

Mrs. Fields said the government's case against Mr. Jeffries, while largely based on circumstantial evi-

dence, was "very strong" and included telephone conversations of Mr. Jeffries talking to Soviet officials.

Mr. Giglia said that federal agents first detected the attempt to sell the secret House documents when a Dec. 14 telephone conversation to the Soviet military office in Northwest Washington was overheard by a "sensitive source," believed to be an electronic intercept.

Mr. Giglia said a man identifying himself in the telephone conversation as "Dano" had offered to sell to the Soviets three documents, including the transcript of the briefing on the military's command, control, communications and intelligence programs.

A short time later the same day, agents spotted a black male matching Mr. Jeffries' description get out of a taxi and go into the Soviets' Belmont Road office, the agent said. The man spent about 30 minutes inside the office, he said.

The cabdriver later was interviewed by FBI agents and said he had picked up the man in the 200 block of Rhode Island Avenue NW, a few feet from Mr. Jeffries' residence, Mr. Giglia said.

Based on the telephone description of the House report, FBI agents determined that Acme Reporting had handled the top-secret report, and a list of six black male employees who were suspects was

obtained from Acme officials, Mr. Giglia said.

Mr. Jeffries was singled out because of the cab driver's information on where he picked up the passenger whom he drove to the Soviet military office.

Six days later, on Dec. 20, the undercover FBI agent, posing as a Soviet official, called Mr. Jeffries and asked him if he were "Dano," and Mr. Jeffries replied that he was, Mr. Giglia said.

The two men arranged a meeting at the Holiday Inn at 14th Street and Massachusetts Avenue NW last Friday night, according to court papers. Mr. Jeffries was said to have told the

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